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MADURA YOUNG MEN.

March 1, 1918.

What is the Young Men's Christian Association?

It is not the building, but something that built it;

It is not the membership, but something that wins it;

It is not the organization, but something that organizes;

It is not the achievement, but something that achieves;

It is not anything on earth, but a spirit on earth that lifts things heavenward;

It is a spirit of brotherhood, uniting men of faith in fellowship and service;

It is a spirit of sacrifice, preferring rather to fall to the ground and die, than to abide by itself alone;

It is the spirit of youth, with the dew and freshness of the morning;

It is the spirit of manhood, pressing forward with the mid-day heat and burden;

It is the spirit of Christ, with his deathless life and his unquenchable enthusiasm;

It is the spirit of Association—the youth, the man, the Christ, in undiscourageable and irresistible co-operation.

THE CHORAL CLASS.

On Thursday evening strains of melody have been heard at the Y. M. C. A. which have been produced by a very enthusiastic group of young men under the leadership of Mr. Rajanaickam James. They have not yet appeared in public but perhaps all they are waiting for is a little encouragement. We hope that they will soon work up a good repertoire, and that some pleasant moonlight evening the charms of music may be added to the beauties of nature as seen in Main Guard Square. The Choral Class is steadily growing in favour and much credit is due to the steady and cheery care of the leader. Those gentlemen who are skilled in the use of some instrument or who enjoy singing, should join the choral club at once, and lose no more opportunities for musical delight.

"The man that hath no music in himself,
Nor is not moved with concord of sweet sounds,
Is fit for treasons, stratagems and spoils ;
The motions of his spirit are dull as night,...
Let no such man be trusted."

A PICNIC! A PICNIC!

It is proposed to hold a picnic party for young men on Monday, March 11. The party will meet early at about 5 A.M. at the Y. M. C. A. and proceed in company to the tope near the Water Works. Early coffee, breakfast, and tea, will all be served there. There is to be a good programme of games, music, and various kinds of picnic fun, and about 5 P.M. the festivities will be concluded.

Those who wish to participate in what will undoubtedly be a pleasant gathering are asked to communicate at once with Mr. P. Samuel or Mr D. Ernest.

THE SECRETARIES' CONFERENCE.

From February 9 to 13 more than one hundred Y. M. C. A. secretaries from all over India, met in conference at the beautiful hill-station of Matheran, near Bombay. Our Association was represented this year by G. P. Bryce, the General Secretary, who has returned very enthusiastic over the experiences of the conference.

There were sessions both morning and afternoon. Those in the morning dealt with important subjects of interest to all. Those in the afternoon were sectional conferences where special subjects were dealt with. In the evening there were sports and games, and after dinner there was music and fun. "Family worship" closed the events of each day, and throughout the whole conference the spirit of devotion, of true brotherliness, and of aspiration after the highest ideals of the Association, was very marked. Some of the topics dealt with were: the Boy Scout Movement; Interdenominationalism; the Spirit of the Y.M.C.A; the Message of the Indian Villager to the Association; India's Boys and what the Association should do for them; the future of the Association in India and Ceylon.

One interesting feature which made one realize how far-flung are the activities of the Indian National Council of the Y. M. C. A. was the sending of greetings to those of its secretaries who are working with Indian and British troops in France, Mesopotamia, East Africa, Egypt, Greece and Palestine.

THE WEDNESDAY LECTURES.

On February 28, a very appreciative audience heard Mr. A. R. Rangachariar give an excellent lecture on the History of the Dyeing Art in India. The lecturer proved to have the happy faculty of making a technical subject one of great interest even to those who had no previous knowledge of the subject. The Art of Dyeing was shown to be not only a very highly skilled craft, but one that by its requirements in knowledge of chemistry, is related to the sciences. At the close of the lecture Mr. L. K. Tulasiram made some illuminating remarks, dwelling particularly on the aesthetic aspects of the noble industry.

The lecture was reported in full in our contemporary "The Hindu" a notable tribute both to the timely character of the topic and to the excellent manner in which it was treated by Mr Rangachariar.

D. M. Dorai Rajah of Pudukota was a worthy exponent of the tendencies of "Modern Philosophy" on February 27, in the Victoria Edward Hall, when G. F. Paddison, Esq., presided over the meeting. An extremely difficult subject was handled in a masterly manner, by one who proved himself a philosopher of high order, and the lecturer was followed with marked attention.

The lectures which have been arranged for this month are worthy successors of those which attracted such large and appreciative audiences in February. The following gentlemen have kindly consented to speak:—

6-30 P.M.
6th M.R.Ry. N. S. Visvanatha Iyer Avl., B.A., B.L., on Tagore's "Personality"

6-45 P.M.
13th A. J. Saunders, Esq., M.A., on "New Zealand" with lantern slides.

6-30 P.M.
20th K. P. Gopal Menon, Esq., Barrister-at-law, on "The Educational Progress of Travancore."

6-45 P.M.
27th J. X. Miller, Esq., M.A., an illustrated Lecture on "Kashmir".

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THE DEBATING SOCIETY.

The society continues to thrive. On February 15, the Literary part of the programme consisted of impromptu speeches on a number of well chosen topics. Some of the speakers made very neat and pithy speeches. On February 22, the monthly election of officers took place, and the literary part of the evening was given over to a keenly contested debate on whether compulsory and free Primary Education is practicable at once

O. O. Stanchfield, Esq., was the guest of the Society for the evening, and acted as Critic at the request of the Chairman. The following are the officers for March.

President, Mr. Vaithialingam
Vice-president, Mr Ernest.
Secretary, Mr. Thirumalai Iyengar
Critic, Mr. Bryce
Advisory Member, Mr. Ebenezer.

This evening the Society is holding a public meeting in the Y.M.C.A. School Hall at which Mrs Bryce will deliver an illustrated lecture on "Japan."

As Mrs. Bryce spent several years in that beautiful country and as the slides are particularly good, a most enjoyable lecture is expected.

CURRENT CHAT.

Mr. W. Paton, M.A. (Oxon.) delivered a very fine lecture on "The War and Civilization" on Saturday, February 23, in the Victoria Edward Hall. Mr. Paton is the Associate General Secretary of the Student Christian Movement of Great Britain and Ireland, and is visiting India as a member of the Deputation of Friendly Service under the auspices of the Association. Mr. Paton much impressed all who met him or heard him by his breadth of sympathy and his clear insight. He met the Senior Discussion Group on Sunday afternoon.

Mr. O. O. Stanchfield, one of the most experienced of the Y.M.C.A. secretaries in India, has been visiting our Association for a few days. He has just returned from a visit to America, and has spent some time with us, and with Mr. Dawson, the Rural Secretary for Madura District.